

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings in the attached replacement sheets correct informalities noted in the Office Action. The cross-sectional references in Figs. 1(D), 5(A), 6(A), 9(C), 15, 26, and 35(E) have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals. The Japanese labeling have been deleted from Figs. 32(A)-(B). No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS**Non-Compliant Amendment**

The marked up copy of the specification has been corrected to show all the changes made to the originally filed specification to arrive at the clean copy of the substitute specification enclosed herewith. Paragraph numbering has been removed, and the titles, subtitles, and figure notation have been corrected as requested in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. The abstract is amended herein to correct informalities. The status identifiers of claims 3, 4, 22, 23, and 25 have been changed to “withdrawn-currently amended” or “withdrawn.” For the reasons stated below, Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, and 25 read on the elected species and were improperly withdrawn. The cross-sectional references in Figs. 5 and 6 have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals.

Applicants submit that the informalities in the Response dated December 22, 2005 have been addressed and respectfully request that this Response be entered.

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 are pending. Claims 3-18 and 21-25 have been withdrawn from consideration. However, claims 3 and 4 as amended are readable on the elected species as explained below. Claim 25 is also readable on the elected species as indicated below.

New claims 26-29 have been added. Support for the new claims are found in the specification and the drawings. Also, the new claims read on the elected species. No new matter has been added.

Election/Restrictions

It is respectfully pointed out that Fig. 6A, an elected species, does show at least one mini-sheet piece. In the specification in Paragraph [0182] as published in US Publication No. 20040162539, reference 12 points to belt bodies 12, which are defined as mini-sheet pieces. Claim

3 has been amended to correct informalities. Because at least one mini-sheet piece is shown in Fig. 6(A), claims 3 and 4 are believed to read on the elected species.

Claim 25 reads on the elected species, Fig. 22.

New claims 26-29 also read on the elected species, particularly Fig. 6(A). Claim 26 is generic to Figs. 5(A)-(D) as well.

Consideration of claims 3, 4, 25, and 26-29 in addition to claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. A substitute specification (a marked-up copy and a clean copy) is included herein to correct the specification. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

The drawings have been corrected and the specification amended to be consistent with the drawings. The cross-sectional references in the figures have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals. The Japanese labeling have been deleted from Figs. 32(A)-(B). The designation of the figures has been amended in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Description

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. With regard to the division of the wrapping container along the broken line 15, it is pointed out that Paragraph [0027] states as follows:

When the separation part is formed of perforations, a slit part is preferred to be 0.5-5 mm long and 3 mm wide at the maximum, and an unslit part is

preferred to be 0.5-5 mm long. In such a manner, it is possible to guide the slit direction by the wearer not to deviate from the separation part, and is also possible to prevent dirt or the like from penetrating into the wrapping container from the separation part. Moreover, in order for the separation part to be easily slit, it is preferable to bring the separation part into penetration state in the direction of thickness.

Furthermore, Paragraph [0086] states that:

These broken lines have only to show the tearing position and direction to the wearer, and as to the structure, an alternate sequence of slits and non-slits like perforations can be mentioned. The broken lines of such a structure are preferred to have 0.5-5 mm long slit parts, a 3 mm maximum width, and 0.5-3 mm long non-slit parts. Such arrangements can not only guide the direction torn by the wearer not to deviate from the broken lines but can prevent dirt and dust from entering through the broken lines.

Thus, it is clear the specification teaches that the broken line 15 indicates perforations or slits that penetrate in the thickness direction for dividing or separating the sheet into sections.

With regard to the tape 14 and sealed longitudinal end, Paragraph [0178] states:

As shown in FIG. 1(A), the interlabial pad 2 is firstly placed with the opposite side face to body side face 2a. Next, as shown in (B) of the same figure, one side part 11a of the wrapping sheet 11 is folded inside along the longitudinal side edge part of the interlabial pad 2, and further, as shown in (C) of the same figure, the other end part 11b of the wrapping sheet 11 is also folded inside. Thus, as shown in (D) of the same figure an overlapping part 11c of the side part 11a and the side part 11b is formed, and this overlapping part becomes the pre-unwrapped opening. This overlapping part 11c is sealed with a peelable stop tape 14. And, by temporary tacking the upper and lower edges of the wrapping sheet by means of heat-sealing, ultrasonic-sealing, etc., so as to be unsealed again, the interlabial pad 2 is enclosed so as not to fall out and thus the wrapping body 3 is formed.

It is clear that the tape 4 is peelable and the longitudinal ends on the front is detachably sealed at the upper and lower edges.

Claim Objections

Claims have been amended to obviate the objections. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Osborn et al. PCT '575.

However, at least the bolded feature below is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited prior art references.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Osborn because it does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the following bolded feature:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A wrapping container for individually wrapping an interlabial pad, comprising:
a wrapping sheet; and
a broken line indicating perforations disposed on the wrapping sheet for completely separating or dividing the wrapping container into two separate sections, wherein each separate section is provided for inserting or removing said interlabial pad.

Osborn teaches a side panel 68, which is allegedly equivalent to separate sections of claim 1. However, the side panel 68 is still part of the package 60 and remains attached to the wrapper 50 and drapes over the fingers (see Figs. 5 and 8). In the present instance, container has a broken line with perforations such that the structure is divided into two sections, each being provided for inserting or removing the interlabial pad.

Therefore, Osborn does not anticipate the present invention as set forth in claim 1 for at least the above reason. Dependent claims 2, 19, and 20 are not anticipated for at least the same

reason as claim 1. New claims 27-29 depend from claim 1 are not anticipated for at least the same reasons.

Claim 26 is also not anticipated by Osborn. Osborn does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the bolded feature below.

Claim 26 (new): A wrapping container for individually wrapping an interlabial pad, comprising:

a wrapping sheet;

a cutting line with perforations provided on the wrapping container for cutting the wrapping container; and

at least one mini-sheet piece disposed on the wrapping sheet, said mini-sheet piece having a dimension that is smaller than the wrapping sheet and having an opening for inserting a finger.

Osborn does not teach at least one mini-sheet piece with a finger inserting opening disposed on the wrapping sheet. For at least this reason, claim 26 is not anticipated by Osborn.

For the foregoing reasons, all pending claims are believed to allowable over the cited prior art reference. Applicant submits that the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments



REPLACEMENT SHEETS